

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-24, 31-34, 39, and 40 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 10, 20, 31, 39, and 40 being the independent claim(s). By this amendment, claims 4 and 11 have been cancelled and claims 1, 10, 20, 31, 39, and 40 have been amended. Support for the amendments can be found in the application as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-5 and 7-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US Publication 2002/0059875 (Yamasaki et al.). Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10-14, 20-24, 31, 32, 39 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,985,376 (Kamen). Claims 1-6, 8, 10-12, 20-24 and 39 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,101,934 (Makin) in view of Ishikawa (US Publication No. 2003/0234848). Claims 15, 16, 33 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 5,985,376 (Kamen) in view of United States Patent 6,396,616 (Fitzer et al.). Claims 1-6, 8, 10-12, 17-19 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 5,845,569 (Tkacz et al.) in view of United States Patent No. 6,559,410 (Bowker et al.). Claims 15, 16, 33 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 5,845,569 (Tkacz et al.) in view of United States Patent No.

6,559,410 (Bowker et al.) as applied to claims 10 and 31 above, and further in view of United States Patent No. 6,396,616 (Fitzer et al.). Applicant traverses these rejections, because the cited patents fail to teach or suggest features of Applicant's invention.

Rejection of independent claims 1 and 10 based on Yamasaki et al.

Yamasaki et al. relates to a screen printing apparatus and method. Generally, that publication relates to printing paste, such as cream solder or conductive paste onto a substrate. The substrate 6 is movable onto a substrate holder 7 disposed on a table 5. The substrate is fed into and out of a printing position by carry-in and carry-out conveyors 14, 15. A laser 20 is provided to measure the substrate or a paste on the substrate. However, nowhere does Yamasaki et al. teach or suggest at least a laser projecting a laser beam along a projection path to treat a surface of a workpiece, as generally recited in independent claims 1 and 10.

Rejection of independent claims 1, 10, 20, 31, 39, and 40 based on Kamen

Kamen relates to an apparatus and method for screen printing radiation curable compositions. More specifically, that patent deals with printing glassware and the like on conventional equipment and curing the glassware after printing using UV radiation. As illustrated in all of the embodiments of Kamen, the article to be printed must be rotated relative to its holder, because the printing apparatus and the radiation lamp are on opposite sides of the article, and because the articles are generally cylindrical in shape. Nowhere

does Kamen teach or suggest at least that a workpiece to be treated is fixed relative to a pallet on which the workpiece is registered, as is generally recited in independent claims 1, 10, 20, 31, 39, and 40.

For at least this reason, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims based on Kamen respectfully are requested.

Rejection of independent claims 1, 10, 20, 39, and 40 based on Makin in view of Ishikawa

Makin relates to a process for direct multicolor printing on basketball backboards. Specifically, that patent teaches using ultraviolet light-cured inks to create graphics on basketball backboards. According to the disclosed process, backboards may be placed on automated conveyors that transport the backboards from a position at which they are inked to a position at which they are cured. However, nowhere does Makin teach or suggest at least a plurality of pallets, each of the pallets configured to register a workpiece to be treated in a registered position fixed relative to the pallet, as recited in independent claims 1 and 10. Nor does it teach or suggest registering a workpiece in a fixed position relative to one of a plurality of pallets, as recited in independent claims 20 and 40. Makin also does not teach or suggest a plurality of pallets, each for supporting a workpiece thereon in a registered position, fixed relative thereto, as recited in independent claim 39.

Ishikawa does not remedy these deficiencies. Ishikawa is understood to be cited only for teaching that a UV laser could be used in place of a UV light. Without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's characterization of Ishikawa,

the combination still fails to teach the features noted above. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection of independent claims 1, 10, 20, 39, and 40 respectfully are requested.

Rejection of claims 1, 10, and 31 based on Tkacz et al. in view of Bowker et al.

This rejection was addressed in detail in arguments presented in the Appeal Briefs previously filed in this application. The Examiner has failed to address these arguments, but withdrew the application from appeal and has now reiterated these rejections. The arguments previously presented are believed to still be proper and overcome the rejection based on the combination of Tkacz et al. in view of Bowker et al. These arguments will not be re-presented herein.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the cited patent documents, whether taken alone or in the proposed combinations, fail to teach or suggest features of Applicant's invention, as recited in independent claims 1, 10, 20, 31, 39, and 40. The other documents cited in the Office Action are cited merely for teaching features of dependent claims and are not understood to remedy the deficiencies noted above. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the independent claims respectfully are requested.

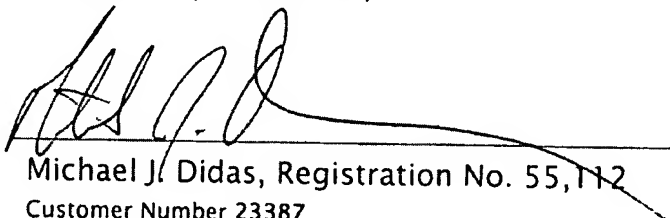
The remaining claims depend from the independent claims. These claims are believed to be allowable by virtue of this dependency, and for

reciting other patentable features of Applicant(s) invention. Favorable and independent consideration of the dependent claims respectfully are requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants below-signed representative may be reached by telephone at (585) 232-6500 with any questions regarding this application. All written correspondence should continue to be forwarded to the address of record for this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. J. Didas", is written over a horizontal line.

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